

FOLLOW THE LIGHT

There was once a deer named Elwood who lived in the woods between County H and Hwy 13 near the Lions Park. He was born there, of course, and lived his four years pretty much out of sight and out of mind. He enjoyed his leisurely days resting in the woods and dreaming about the pictures he saw in the fluffy clouds that rolled through the blue sky of Adams County. Elwood had his favorite hang outs, and was blessed with adequate forage and water during all seasons. He was cautiously thankful for the bits of grain left, now and then, by humans along paths and roads that he frequented. He especially liked grazing in the lush grasses, flavored with a little salt, he found along Highway 13, but he was always wary of those noisy monsters which roared along the yellow stripe.

One day toward evening, Elwood was feeling really relaxed as he nibbled among the wildflowers bordering the Highway. As he gazed at the clouds and noticed the birds tweeting in the trees, he felt invigorated by his surroundings. Such ecstasy he had never felt before, and Elwood began to wonder if this was all there was to a deer's life. As he contemplated these deep thoughts, Elwood heard, as he supposed, an audible voice saying, "Follow the light, follow the light." This was a new, puzzling thought to Elwood the deer, for he wasn't quite sure what "light" was. Then he remembered that as he pondered the floating clouds he noticed the movement of a great luminous body across the sky every day. He thought that somehow this must be the "light" he was to follow, but its course was so far away, and there seemed to be no possibility that he could do so.

In the gathering darkness, Elwood realized that the monsters of which he had occasionally dreamed seemed to come alive with the same brightness as the overhead lustrous orb. In fact, they lit the darkness with twin beams of illumination, that were, strangely, attractive and addictive. For a number of weeks, Elwood grazed along the roadway on the salty grass, and gazed at the glowing metal monsters traversing his woodland home. He was entranced by these machines, which now were familiar and no longer monsters, and was very much attracted to the billowing light which emanated from them. He relished the times when the light would envelop his being and he remembered those distant words, "Follow the light." He even, at times, would begin to walk, then run, then gallop in the afterglow of one of the machines - "Follow the light."

This particular night, the desire for understanding, and much more than a deer's paltry living on the side of the highway motivated Elwood to a grave decision. If he was really going to follow the light, he was going to have to get a head start, for the light was fleeting - very quick! As soon as he perceived light in the distance, he readied himself for the swiftest run of his life. He was tired of the mundane and sedentary, and ready for excitement a deer could never imagine. As the light approached, Elwood began to run. As the twin beams grew closer, he drew closer to the roadway. At full gallop he was on an intercept course, every muscle straining, hooves pounding into the gravel and pavement. And then, it was over. Before it really began. The light was fading into the horizon. Elwood was defeated. As he stood panting on the side of the pavement, disappointed with his puny abilities compared to the "light," another glow shown from down the road. What should he do? Was this way beyond a mere deer's abilities? What was the meaning of those words, heard so long ago; "Follow the light?" As he considered the meaning of the words, "don't do it," Elwood heard another voice, as it were, saying, "Run TO the light."

2Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Satan points an appealing beam of light in our direction, and dazzles us with its mysterious allure. "Run to the light," he says, "for ecstasy beyond your expectations. Those ugly monsters are really exciting and invigorating. Run to the light, everybody's doing it."

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

As human beings, we are encouraged in God's Word to follow Jesus. To trust His death on the cross as payment for our sins, and follow Him in living righteous, moral lives. There is no deception involved, just an invitation to Eternal Life, through faith in the Son of God.

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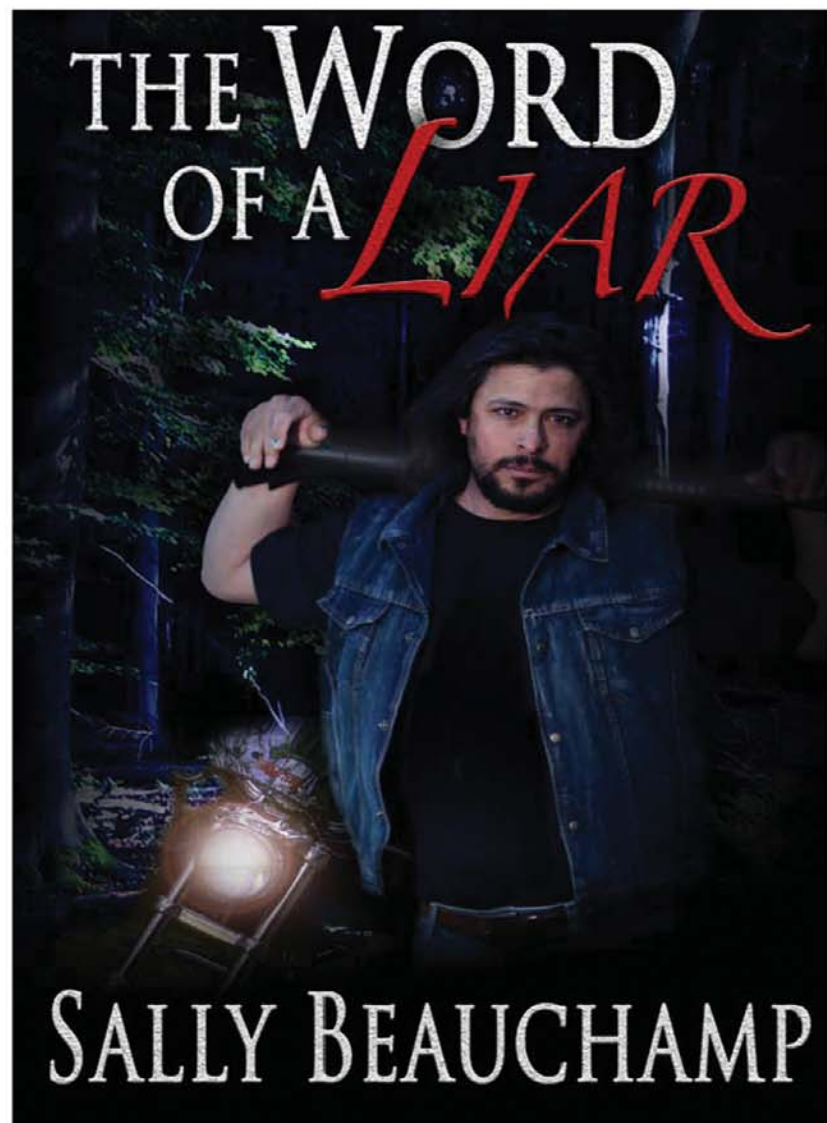
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